

Message Text

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R 190639Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4575
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA SCUL PL US
SUBJ: BILLY GRAHAM VISIT TO POLAND

REF: (A) STATE 89232 (NOTAL), (B) PIASECKI-POZORSKI MEMCON,
MARCH 22, 1978 (NOTAL)

1. ON APRIL 14, THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED WALTER SMYTH AND ALEXANDER HARASZTI, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, WHO WERE IN WARSAW TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRAHAM'S UPCOMING TOUR OF POLAND. SMYTH AND HARASZTI SAID THAT SUBJECT TO HIS OWN APPROVAL, GRAHAM IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN POLAND OCTOBER 6 - 16. HE WILL PREACH IN SIX LOCATION: WARSAW, BIALYSTOK, KRAKOW, POZNAN, AND TWO SPOTS NEAR CIESZYN ON THE POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER. ONE OF THE CIESZYN GATHERINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN AN OPEN-AIR LUTHERAN CAMP. SMYTH AND HARASZTI EXPECT THAT

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BAPTISTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL ATTEND THE MEETINGS IN BIALYSTOK AND CIESZYN RESPECTIVELY. THE GRAHAM REPRESENTATIVES ADDED THAT (CONTRARY TO THE INFORMATION RELAYED IN THE REFERENCE MEMCON) GRAHAM WILL BE VISITING SWEDEN JUST BEFORE HE COMES TO POLAND. HIS SWEDISH TOUR ENDS OCTOBER 1.

2. THE GRAHAM REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER GOP

COOPERATION IN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GRAHAM TOUR. THEY SAID A HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, POSSIBLY PRIME MINISTER PIOTR JAROSZEW-ICZ, WILL RECEIVE GRAHAM. SMYTH AND HARASZTI ALSO CONSULTED WITH POLISH BAPTISTS AND LEADERS OF OTHER NON-CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS. ALL, THEY SAID, WELCOME THE CRUSADE. THEY WERE UNABLE TO MEET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BUT PLAN TO CALL ON WLADYSLAW MIZIOLEK, THE BISHOP IN CHARGE OF CATHOLIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER RELIGIONS IN POLAND, WHEN THEY RETURN TO WARSAW IN LATE JULY. THEY DOUBTED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WOULD PLACE ANY OBSTACLES TO THE GRAHAM VISIT.

3. SMYTH AND HARASZTI SUGGESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT WISH TO HOLD A RECEPTION IN GRAHAM'S HONOR. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED TO GIVE SUCH A RECEPTION. THEY ALSO ASKED THAT GRAHAM'S POLISH INTERPRETER BE ALLOWED TO STUDY TAPES OF GRAHAM'S CRUSADE IN HUNGARY ON EMBASSY VIDEOTAPE EQUIPMENT, IN ORDER TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH GRAHAM'S SPEECH MANNERISMS. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED TO PERMIT USE OF THE EQUIPMENT ON EMBASSY PREMISES.
SCHAUFEELE

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